

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 16559 211358Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 CU-04
AID-05 /054 W
-----115535 211903Z /44 40
R 211335Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3610

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OGEN, KE, UK
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER

1. THE BRITISH DEFENSE ADVISER IN NAIROBI, COL. GEOFFREY ALDERMAN, HAS REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE, ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS, OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN ARRANGING FOR THE TRANSPORT OF A (DIVERS') RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER FROM BODRUM, TURKEY TO MOMBASA, KENYA. THE RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER IS APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET LONG AND WEIGHTS TWO TONS.

2. THE BRITISH AND KENYAN NAVIES ARE ASSISTING THE CURATOR OF THE FORT JESUS MUSEUM IN MOMBASA IN AN AQUATIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT FOR THE RECOVERY OF PARTS OF A PORTUGUESE FRIGATE SUNK OFF MOMBASA SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS AGO. VESSELS, DIVERS, AND SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED, BUT IT IS FELT THAT, AS A SAFETY MEASURE, A RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER SHOULD BE ON HAND IN CASE OF THE PERSONNEL DEVELOP BENDS AS A RESULT OF SURFACING TOO RAPIDLY. THE UNDER WATER WORK WILL BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND CONTINUE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

3. THE USE OF A RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER HAS BEEN OFFERED THE EXPEDITION BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY. THE CHAMBER IS AT PRESENT IN BODRUM, TURKEY. SINCE THE UNITED
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STATES DOES HAVE FORCES IN TURKEY AND MIGHT CONCEIVABLY HAVE TRANSPORT FLIGHTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA, COL. ALDERMAN HOPED THAT SPACE MIGHT BE FOUND AND AN AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO MOMBASA TO MAKE DELIVERY. THE EXPEDITION WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DEFRAY ANY ADDITIONAL EXPENSES SUCH A DIVERSION MIGHT INCUR.

4. SINCE THE KENYAN NAVY HAS BEEN SO FORTHCOMING IN

RESPONSE TO REQUESTS WE HAVE MADE AT THE TIME OF OUR RELATIVELY
FREQUENT SHIPS VISITS HERE, AS THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS
AIRFIELD FACILITIES TO OUR P-3 FLIGHTS, AND, FINALLY, SINCE
THIS EXPEDITION WILL VERY LIKELY RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY
IF ITS FINDS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THEY PROMISE TO BE, THE
EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN PREVAIL UPON THE DEPART-
MENT OF DEFENSE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS
REQUEST.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB16559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0331
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabagr.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b2916ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 159475
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER
TAGS: OGEN, KE, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b2916ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009